

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A closure assembly for securing a cover to an open-ended container having a rim, comprising:

a split ring member having a cross-section configured to cooperate with the cover and the rim of the container;

a locking device co-acting with the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container and effecting a seal between the cover and container; and

a polymeric coating applied to at least an inward-facing side of the split ring member that contacts the cover and the rim of the container;

wherein the polymeric coating has a degree of resiliency to absorb impact forces during a drop test.

2. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the split ring member is made of metal.

3. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the split ring member comprises two free ends each having a lug connected thereto, the lugs comprising a threaded lug and an unthreaded lug, and the locking device comprising the lugs and a bolt extending through the unthreaded lug and cooperating with the threaded lug to draw the ends together and reduce the diameter of the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container.

4. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 3, wherein the locking device further comprises a nut cooperating with the bolt.

5. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 1, wherein polymeric coating comprises polyvinylchloride.

6. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the polymeric coating has a thickness of between about 15 - 30 mils on the split ring member.

7. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly of claim 1, A closure assembly for securing a cover to an open-ended container having a rim, comprising:

a split ring member having a cross-section configured to cooperate with the cover and the rim of the container;

a locking device co-acting with the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container and effecting a seal between the cover and container; and

a polymeric coating applied to at least an inward-facing side of the split ring member that contacts the cover and the rim of the container;

wherein the polymeric coating has a degree of resiliency to absorb impact forces during a drop test, and wherein the polymeric coating comprises a base layer applied directly on the surface of the split ring member and a top layer on the base layer.

8. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 7, wherein the base layer comprises an epoxy-acrylic blend and the top layer comprises polyvinylchloride.

9. (Original) The closure assembly of claim 7, wherein the base layer has a thickness of up to about 1 mil and the top layer has a thickness of between about 15-25 mils on the base layer.

10. (Previously Presented) A container for transporting goods and materials, comprising:

an open-ended container body having a rim at the open end;

a cover enclosing the open end of the container body; and

a closure assembly securing the cover to the container body, the closure assembly further comprising:

a split ring member cooperating with the cover and the rim of the container body, the split ring member having a cross-section configured to cooperate with the cover and the rim of the container body;

a locking device co-acting with the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container body and effecting a seal between the cover and container body; and

a polymeric coating applied to at least an inward-facing side of the split ring member that contacts the cover and the rim of the container body;

wherein the polymeric coating has a degree of resiliency to absorb impact forces during a drop test.

11. (Original) The container of claim 10, further comprising a gasket interposed between the cover and the rim of the container body.

12. (Original) The container of claim 10, wherein the container body, cover, and split ring member are each made of metal.

13. (Original) The container of claim 10, wherein the split ring member comprises two free ends each having a lug connected thereto, the lugs comprising a threaded lug and an unthreaded lug, and the locking device comprising the lugs and a bolt extending through the unthreaded lug and cooperating with the threaded lug to draw the ends together and reduce the diameter of the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container body.

14. (Original) The container of claim 13, wherein the locking device further comprises a nut cooperating with the bolt.

15. (Original) The container of claim 10, wherein polymeric coating comprises polyvinylchloride.

16. (Original) The container of claim 10, wherein the polymeric coating has a thickness of between about 15 - 30 mils on the split ring member.

17. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 10, A container for transporting goods and materials, comprising:

an open-ended container body having a rim at the open end;

a cover enclosing the open end of the container body; and

a closure assembly securing the cover to the container body, the closure assembly further comprising:

a split ring member cooperating with the cover and the rim of the container body, the split ring member having a cross-section configured to cooperate with the cover and the rim of the container body;

a locking device co-acting with the split ring member for securing the split ring member to the cover and the rim of the container body and effecting a seal between the cover and container body; and

a polymeric coating applied to at least an inward-facing side of the split ring member that contacts the cover and the rim of the container body;

wherein the polymeric coating has a degree of resiliency to absorb impact forces during a drop test, and wherein the polymeric coating comprises a base layer applied directly on the surface of the split ring member and a top layer on the base layer.

18. (Original) The container of claim 17, wherein the base layer comprises an epoxy-acrylic blend and the top layer comprises polyvinylchloride.

19. (Original) The container of claim 17, wherein the base layer has a thickness of up to about 1 mil and the top layer has a thickness of between about 15-25 mils on the base layer.

20.-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the polymeric coating comprises a unitary layer.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The container of claim 10, wherein the polymeric coating comprises a unitary layer.